

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0001
PH (916) 319-2001
FAX (916) 319-2101

DISTRICT OFFICES:
50 D STREET, SUITE 450
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404
PH (707) 576-2528
FAX (707) 576-2297

104 WEST CHURCH STREET
UKIAH, CA 95482
PH (707) 463-5770
FAX (707) 463-5773

235 4TH STREET, SUITE C
EUREKA, CA 95501
PH (707) 445-7014
FAX (707) 445-6607

Assembly California Legislature

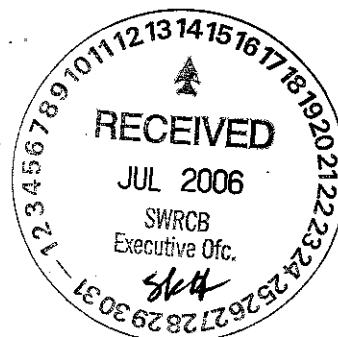


PATTY BERG
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

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July 14, 2006

7/19/06 BdMtg Item 5
Big River/Salmon Creek
Deadline: 7/14/06 5pm



Ms. Tam M. Doduc, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

SRF Loan Number C-06-6090-110/Big River and Salmon Creek Conservation Project

Dear Ms. Doduc:

I understand that on July 19th the State Water Board will consider a State Revolving Fund loan to The Conservation Fund to assist with the purchase of approximately 16,400 acres of forestland in the Big River and Salmon Creek watersheds in Mendocino County. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for this innovative and efficient use of the Revolving Fund to protect coastal forests and address important water quality and other beneficial uses on the North Coast.

This exciting project will combine State Revolving Fund loan funds with grants from public agencies and private foundations to achieve important water quality protection and enhancement goals identified in a number of State plans and policies relating to water quality and other beneficial uses, including the Board's Nonpoint Source Program Strategy and Implementation Plan, 1998 - 2013, and Department of Fish and Game's Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon.

Specifically, water quality protection and enhancement objectives will be achieved by permanently protecting the properties from subdivision and conversion to non-forest uses and by implementing sustainable forest practices and silvicultural management measures identified in the Implementation Plan. Successful implementation of these measures will also achieve important state objectives related to recovery of coho salmon and steelhead trout.

The coastal forests of Mendocino County provide a wide array of irreplaceable benefits for all Californians. However, the increasing pace of residential and agricultural development of forestland throughout the region presents a serious threat to the future integrity of these important coastal ecosystems and the biological, scenic, economic and recreational benefits they provide for residents and visitors alike.



Ms. Tam M. Doduc

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By funding the proposed Big River/Salmon Creek purchase, the Water Board can play a leading role in securing a sustainable future for the coastal forests of Mendocino County. I urge you to seize this opportunity and approve the proposed loan for the acquisition of the Big River and Salmon Creek properties. Thank you very much.

Respectfully,



PATTY BERG

Assemblywoman, 1st District

PB:gam

cc: Chris Kelly, California Director, The Conservation Fund
Jenny Griffin, Consultant to The Conservation Fund